LIBRARY
125-11-40.

Seaham Urban District Council

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR 1939

OF THE

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

SEAHAM:
Moorhead & Young, Printers, 13, North Terrace.
1940.

Seaham Urban District Council.

Councillor S. BARRETT, J.P., Chairman.

Members of the Council:

Councillor	ARMSTRONG	Councillor	*McLAUCHLAN
,,	*BARRATT	,,	NEEDHAM
,,	*BLACKWELL	,,	*PIGG
,,	*CLAXTON	,,	*ROBINSON
,,	CONN	,,	*SAMPLE
,,	CROW	,,	SCOLLEN
,,	*FERGUSON	,,	*SCOTT
,,	GALLAGHER	,,	*SMITH
,,	*GUY	,,	SNOWDEN
,,	*JENNINGS	,,	*TODD
,,	*KEELEY	,,	WEBSTER
,,	LAWSON	,,	WEETMAN
,,	LEE	,,	*WILSON
,,	*LOWERY	,,	WINTER
,,	McCHESNEY	,,	WRIGHT
,,	McCUTCHEON		

* Members of Health Committee.

Officials of Health Department:

Medical Officer of Health until 30th September, 1939:—
Dr. J. A. NEILAN, L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health from October 1st, 1939:
Dr. J. ROLAND HETHERINGTON, L.R.C.P. & S.E., L.R.F.P. & S.G., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector—BATESON TURNER, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., C.S.I.

Sanitary Inspector—J. D. COLLINS, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Certified Meat Inspector.

Engineer and Surveyor—J. B. ABBEY, M. INST. M. & CY. E., A.R.S.I.

Clerk to Health Department—JOHN R. WALLACE.

To the Chairman and Members
of the
Seaham Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have to submit the Annual Report for the year 1939 on the work of the Health Department. This is drawn up in accordance with instructions contained in Circular 1961 of the Ministry of Health (as amended in Circular 2067) which requires a much abbreviated form of report.

Yours faithfully,
J. ROLAND HETHERINGTON.

Health Department:
1, Princess Road,
Seaham,
20th November, 1940.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

(Figures in brackets refer to previous year).

Area: 2,467 statute acres.

Estimated resident population middle of 1939, 29,100 (29,160)

Estimated average population, 28,210

Number of inhabited houses, 6,973 (6,927)

Rateable value, £104,519 (£100,837)

Penny rate produces £393 (374)

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births.—Live Births.—

		Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	...	472	233	239
Illegitimate	...	13	6	7
		485	239	246
		(495)	(259)	(236)

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident population, mid-1939, 16.3 (17.1).

Still births	...	21	10	11

Rate per 1,000 total births, 41.5.

Deaths	300 (311)	158 (168)	142 (143)

Death rate per 1,000 estimated average population, 10.6 (11.6).

Note:—Deaths of non-civilians are not included after the 1st September, 1939.

Puerperal sepsis and other puerperal causes: No cases occurred.

Infantile Mortality.

Death rate of all infants under one year per 1,000 live births 78 (82.9).

Death rate of legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births, 78.

Death rate of illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births, 77.

	Total	Male	Female
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ...	28	11	17
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ...	0	0	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough ...	2	1	1
Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	1	0	1

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Water.—The water supplied by the Sunderland and South Shields Water Company is subject to bacteriological and chemical analysis at frequent intervals by the purveyors, and has been found satisfactory in every respect. The supply is continuous. During the year, taps in yards were replaced by taps inside the house and sinks provided in 21 houses.

Drainage and Sewage.—Work on an extensive scheme for re-sewering almost the whole of the district was commenced in May and good progress has been made.

Closet Accommodation.—With the exception of a number of dwelling houses in outlying districts which are situated at considerable distances from sewers, the entire district is on the water carriage system.

Public Cleansing.—Public cleansing is carried out by the Council's own workmen. In December a Ministry of Health Inspector conducted an enquiry regarding an

application of the Council in connection with the acquisition of certain land whereon to carry out a scheme of controlled tipping of refuse.

Shops and Offices.—All shops in the area have been visited. Where considered necessary, alterations and improvements have been recommended and carried out.

Nuisances.—564 informal written notices were served by the Inspector for the following insanitary conditions. The nuisances were all abated.

Dwelling-houses and Schools	Foul conditions	24
	Structural defects	18
	Overcrowding	—
Lodging Houses		—
Dairies and Milkshops		—
Cowsheds		1
Bakehouses		—
Slaughter-houses		—
Ashpits and Privies		11
Deposits of Refuse and Manure		1
Water Closets		33
Defective Yard Paving		—
House Drainage	Defective Traps	—
	No Disconnection from Sewers	—
	Other faults	23
Water Supply		—
Pigsties		—
Animals Improperly Kept		—
Offensive Trades		—
Smoke Nuisances		3
Other Nuisances (Ash Bins)		450
	Total	564

Smoke Abatement.—In an effort to obtain abatement of dust and smoke nuisances arising from certain industrial undertakings in the area, the assistance of the Ministry's Inspector was sought and obtained. During recent months there has been some improvement, but the greater co-operation of the various industrial undertakings and public utility companies operating in the area would be appreciated.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.—Disinfection and disinfestation is carried out by the Local Authority. Houses are inspected and disinfested whenever necessary. This is

done by (i) Powder (kolium co.); (ii) Insecticides (kolium co.; Cromessol soln. A and B); and (iii) Fumigation (Flypic blocks).

Council houses disinfested, 4
Other houses disinfested, 163.

School Closure.—It was not found necessary to recommend the closure of any schools in the area owing to the prevalence of infectious disease.

HOUSING.

The Council by resolution, acting under Section 25 of the Housing Act 1936, made two Compulsory Purchase Orders and one Clearance Order, but owing to the outbreak of hostilities no Public Enquiries under this section have been held.

It was the intention of the Council to deal with certain properties in the district under Sections 9-12 of the Housing Act, 1936, and in this connection specifications in respect of 43 houses were issued. The scheme is now in abeyance as it has been found impossible, owing to the difficulty of obtaining building materials, to put the section into operation.

All cases of overcrowding revealed by the Overcrowding Survey Report have been suitably re-housed during the year

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.—All farms and milk shops have been frequently inspected.

Meat and other Foods.—During the year 1961 visits were paid to the Shops, Bakehouses and Slaughterhouses in the district, and any defects found were remedied. In the course of inspection 680 stones of meat, 3 stones of tinned food, 24 stones of fish, 66 lb. of cheese, and 12 gallons of milk were condemned.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND TUBERCULOSIS.

The prevalence of, and control over, infectious diseases and Tuberculosis are indicated in the accompanying tables.

222 houses and lots of bedding were disinfected.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 ..								
1 ..			1					
5 ..		1	2	1			1	2
10 ..			1	1			1	
15 ..	2	3		1	2		1	
20 ..		2	1			1	1	
25 ..	1	4			2	3		
35 ..	2	1				3		
45 ..	4				3	1		
55 ..	1					1		
65 upwards							1	
TOTALS ..	10	11	5	3	7	9	5	2

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

There are 30 Power Factories and Workshops in the area, and 13 non-power Factories. All these have been inspected during the year.

PORT SANITARY AUTHORITY.

72 vessels were inspected during the year, 20 by the Medical Officer and 52 by the Sanitary Inspector. Conditions were found satisfactory. No cases of infectious disease were found or reported.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

CASES NOTIFIED AT THE FOLLOWING AGES:—

Disease	Under 1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years	5-10 years	10-15 years	15-20 years	20-35 years	35-45 years	45-65 years	65 and over	Admitted to Hospital	Died	Total
Scarlet Fever ..	—	1	2	1	3	31	12	4	1	—	—	—	25	—	55
Diphtheria ..	1	—	1	1	2	25	15	5	4	—	—	—	52	4	54
Puerperal Sepsis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	—	1	—	4
Erysipelas ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	4	3	1	—	10
Cerebro Spinal..	1	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	2	—	—	6	2	6
Measles	4	6	9	15	19	45	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	101
Whooping Cough	3	8	3	4	2	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	25
Pneumonia ..	7	8	2	4	1	8	3	1	5	9	10	5	—	19	64

HELPFUL HINTS FOR HEALTH.

Every room blacked out by night should be ventilated by day.

Don't throw food scraps outside; it is not only wasteful, but it encourages rats and mice.

Where there is dirt there is danger.

You cannot keep your house too clean.

If you wish to be healthy use plenty of water, both inside and out, both for yourself and your house.

Sleep is as necessary as food, especially for children.

The most dangerous disease of childhood is diphtheria; protect yourself by being immunised.

If diphtheria you despise, now's the time to immunise.

The best medicines are the cheapest: sunshine, sleep, fresh air and water.

If you suspect Infectious Disease don't wait and see, call in your Doctor at once.

In any case of difficulty or doubt consult your Health Department; it is at your service.